

Archie Morrison House and Outbuildings
Clifton Townsite
173 Frisco Street
Clifton
Greenlee County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-170

HABS
ARIZ
6-CLIFT,
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Western Region
Department of the Interior
San Francisco, California 94107

HAB
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
ARCHIE MORRISON HOUSE AND OUTBUILDINGS

HABS No. AZ-170

Location:

Clifton Townsite, 173 Frisco Street, Clifton, Greenlee County, Arizona

Significance:

Associated with prominent Arizona Copper Company employee Archie Morrison. Typical example of housing in Clifton between 1900-1920.

Description:

The Archie Morrison House follows the National Folk precedents of the "Gable-Front-and-Wing" substyle. The house sits on a densely landscaped lot with a low wire fence at the property line. It is a one-story wood frame building with a gable roof. Most of the original wood-frame, double-hung one-over-one windows remain intact. A few windows have been replaced with aluminum sliding units. A shed-roofed front entry porch shows Victorian details such as turned porch posts and gingerbread. There also is a shed-roofed side entry porch. Exterior materials include wood siding on the walls, "V"-shaped fishscale shingles in the gables, and corrugated metal roofing.

To the northwest side of the house, a small wood-framed shed stands. The shed features wood shiplap siding and a gabled roof with corrugated metal sheathing.

History:

This frame dwelling was constructed between 1900 and 1904 by Arizona Copper Company concentrator foreman Archie Morrison and served as his principal residence. In 1900, Morrison subdivided a portion of North Clifton into the "A. Morrison Addition" and retained Lot 1, Block 1, as his residence.¹

Archie Morrison, a native of Scotland, came to Clifton to work in the Arizona Copper Company smelting department as the concentrator foreman. Morrison was instrumental in the success of the A.C. Company as the company was faced with using ores with smaller and smaller percentages of copper. These ore needed to be concentrated before they could be smelted at a profit. Morrison directed the operation of several concentrating plants for the Company. In his 1924 memoir, A.C. Company manager James Colquhoun called Morrison "an ideal man for concentration." Morrison was in charge of the first porphyry concentration plant built in 1895. Colquhoun states: "With his coat off and his sleeves rolled up, Archie was the first man on the job each morning and the last to leave it at night. A more faithful or more kindly soul never breathed." Morrison died in 1918.²

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Sources (endnotes):

1. 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance map; 1908 Arizona Copper Company base map; plat map of Mr. A. Morrison's Addition dated February 5, 1900 on file with the Greenlee County Recorder's Office; interview with Harriet Sweeting, December 17, 1993.
2. Copper Era April 9, 1908 (I, 2: 2); May 7, 1915 (I, 5: 3); November 29, 1918 (I, 1: 2); James Colquhoun, The History of the Clifton-Morenci Mining District (London: John Murray, 1924), pages 48 and 56-58.

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SKETCH MAP

Scale: None

north

